

## *Italy's Dead 47,000, With Thousands Dying in Ruins From Fire and Wounds*

**Death Toll of Earthquake Increases in Isolated Towns—Fatalities in Pescini 4,000; in Giosimarsi 3,000; in San Benedetto 3,000.**

## ONLY A FEW OF SORA'S 17,000 LIVE

**Survivors Avoiding Death from Cold Start Fires  
Which Roast Those Still Living Amid Ruins—  
Thousands Held Under Wreckage.**

Rome, Jan. 10.—Official reports, compiled town by town, have established that Italy's known dead in the earthquake holocaust number not less than 47,357.

This list is growing hourly, as government dispatches announce the names and death toll of towns in the stricken region hitherto cut off from all communication.

The aftermath of the disaster, however, is now beginning to reveal its appalling proportions. Cold, hunger, fire and disease have followed so swiftly in the wake of the original catastrophe that half as many more victims may be added to the original number unless the government authorities are able to work a miracle of relief.

The fate of Sora is uppermost in the mind of the nation. It is impossible as yet to ascertain the exact number of the dead and wounded but there is reason to believe that only a few hundred persons out of the population of 17,000 are alive.

Relief expeditions have been hurried to Sora, but every hour is bringing more harrowing details of the destruction. The earthquakes were so severe there that buildings were thrown from their foundations and toppled bottom up some distance from their original positions.

Thirteen hundred are dead at Magliano di Marsi. Capelle was destroyed, with the loss of more than 1,200 lives. The town of Scurcola is nothing but a pile of ruins, beneath which are buried hundreds of bodies. Of the nine hundred inhabitants only thirty escaped death.

Nearly the entire population of San Benedetto, numbering 3,000, was wiped out. The towns of Orticchio, with 2,400 inhabitants, and Giosuè, with 3,500, are in ruins. At Pescara the number of deaths is about 4,000, which is approximately one-half of the population.

The entire population of Alba is believed to have perished, and out of five hundred persons in the village of Lese only fifty are accounted for. Every town in the Liri valley is reported to-night to have been either totally destroyed or seriously damaged.

## AVEZZANO, CITY OF DEAD AND RUINS

**Bodies of 11,000 Buried in Debris Obliterating Streets**

By CHAPMAN COLEMAN,  
United States Consul at Rome.  
Rome, Jan. 15.—Pompeii is no longer  
the world's City of the Dead. Some-

where in the ruins of Avezzano, where three days ago lived 12,000 people, the majority of them workers in the six big sugar refineries which made the district prosperous, lie the bodies of more than 11,000 persons.

It is difficult to convey an idea of the absolute destruction of Avezaan. Not more than half a dozen structures are standing, and of these only the walls remain. Debris, tossed in all directions, has obliterated streets, plazas and the old market place. The rescue work at Avezaan is becoming a ghastly and nerve racking task. Mutilated bodies extricated from the ruins are being laid along the road which once led to the railway station. Some of the bodies are so unrecognizable that they are being buried in the open.

and alleys, so that the few inhabitants who escaped death, even though many of them were born and brought up in the town, are unable to pick out more than the approximate sites of their own homes.

Stretching away on all sides from the acres upon acres of ruin, the country is as bare of human habitations as a wilderness. The landscape is whitened in places by patches of shattered stone and brick, but these are all that

remain of splendid country estates and farms. Six distinct villages in the environs were wiped out by the same stroke which levelled Avezzano, and the toll of life in these towns was proportionately severe. Probably not less than

The disaster, reports here indicate, extended from Rome as far north as Ancona, Florence. The Gulf of Salerno felt the shock. At least 500 towns and

Twenty thousand troops have been sent to Marsaba in the Abuzzi, to aid

in relief work, and a similar number has been dispatched to Monte Corvino, near Salerno. A mountain near Montagnano literally splits in two, half of it rolling in a vast landslide into a valley, burying a half dozen hamlets under thousands of tons of earth and rock.

As the hours go by it is apparent that if any more people are to be rescued from the debris alive no time must be lost. Consequently the work of digging through the ruins is being performed to-day more assiduously than ever. Up to a late hour to-night only about five hundred bodies have

**Boy and Railroad Man Make Freight Car Telegraph Station.**

Rome, Jan. 15.—A wagoner's apprentice, a boy of thirteen years, was the first to use a telegraph station in a freight car.

first person to give the news of Avellan to the outside world. He succeeded in getting back into the town a few moments after the first shock.

He found a railroad employee and persuaded this man, with his help, to rig up a telegraph instrument in a freight

car and connect it with a wire that was still intact. Calling on the instrument, the railroad man, who was an operator, soon got Rome. The two together then sent the first news of the disaster.

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